

Message Text

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41

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CU-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 3559

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI UAE

AMEMBASSY DOHA QATAR

AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT OMAN

AMEMBASSY PARIS FRANCE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 1475

PARIS FOR NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : AORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT : ISRAEL'S REQUEST FOR INCLUSION IN UNESCO EUROPEAN
REGION

REF : STATE 240292

1. I CALLED ON SENIOR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIAL
IN BAHRAIN (DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS DEPART-
MENT, MAHMOOD BAHLOOL) SEPT. 29 MORNING TO CARRY OUT INSTRUCTIONS
OUTLINED REFTTEL, PARA 5, PARTS A-C. BAHLOOL, AS ALWAYS, WAS
GRACIOUS AND STRAINED TO FOLLOW MY DISCUSSION OF CONGRESSIONAL
AND AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION VIS-A-VIS UNESCO SINCE THE 1974
DECISIONS REGARDING ISRAEL. HE CLUCKED HIS TONGUE AT THE
APPROPRIATE TIME WHEN I NOTED THAT FURTHER WITHHOLDING OF USG
CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNESCO WOULD CLEARLY DAMAGE THE ORGANIZATION
AND ITS GOOD WORKS. AND, AGAIN AS ALWAYS, HE PROMISED TO PASS
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ON OUR COMMENTS TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER WHO IS CURRENTLY IN

NEW YORK.

2. I ASKED BAHLOOL WHO WOULD REPRESENT BAHRAIN AT NAIROBI MEETING AND HE THOUGHT SOMEONE FROM THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (PROBABLY UNDER SECRETARY DR. JALIL AL-URRAYED). HE WOULD CARRY WRITTEN "POLITICAL" INSTRUCTIONS AND WOULD SEEK OUT THE ARAB CAUCUS FOR GUIDANCE ON HOW TO VOTE ON "THESE KINDS" OF POLITICAL, AS DISTINCT FROM EDUCATIONAL, MATTERS. BAHLOOL SAID HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY AGREED ARAB POSITION ON THE ISRAELI REQUEST FOR INCLUSION IN THE EUROPEAN REGION. WE REVIEWED THE EXECUTIVE BOARD'S RECOMMENDATION OF LAST FALL, AND I TRIED TO MAKE THE POINT THAT COUNTRIES LIKE BAHRAIN WHICH SUPPORT UNESCO ACTIVITIES SHOULD QUESTION CLOSELY WHICH IS BEING DAMAGED MORE -- ISRAEL OR UNESCO -- BY DECISIONS SUCH AS THOSE TAKEN IN 1974.

3. COMMENT: THERE IS NO CHANCE AT ALL THAT BAHRAIN WILL NOT BE FOUND WITHIN THE ARAB BLOC FOLD DURING THE UPCOMING NAIROBI GENERAL CONFERENCE. THERE IS A SLIGHT CHANCE THAT BAHRAIN MIGHT QUESTION WITHIN THE ARAB CAUCUS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE EXCLUSION OF ISRAEL FROM THE EUROPEAN REGION AS AN ARAB STRATEGY, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE DAMAGE BEING DONE TO UNESCO PROGRAMS BECAUSE OF THE WITHHOLDING OF USG CONTRIBUTIONS.
BURLEIGH

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